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**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,825,879****Davis**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 20, 1998**[54] **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COPY-PROTECTING DISTRIBUTED VIDEO CONTENT**[75] **Inventor:** **Derek L. Davis, Phoenix, Ariz.**[73] **Assignee:** **Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, Calif.**[21] **Appl. No.:** **723,830**[22] **Filed:** **Sep. 30, 1996**[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **H04L 9/00; H04N 7/167**[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **380/5; 380/10; 380/52; 380/3; 380/4**[58] **Field of Search** ..... **380/5, 10, 20, 380/4, 49, 52, 3**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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A secure video content processor ("SVCP") which receives encrypted digital video information and converts it into analog information for a monitor while preventing unauthorized access to the intermediate unencrypted digital data. The SVCP uses hardware envelopes to prevent unauthorized access to the decrypted digital stream. When a need arises to transmit digital data outside the hardware envelope, the digital data is encrypted and then decrypted when it re-enters a hardware protected section of circuitry.

**13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets****PC PLATFORM**